

ABSTRACTAggregates in a presence management system

A presence management system is described whereby connections between watching parties and watched parties in a multiple access communications network are managed. When the presence management system receives a contact request from a watching party it determines whether the required watched party is available for contact. The system then provides information about this to the watching party who made the request. The presence management system chooses the best mode of communication (e.g. email or fax) taking into account the watched parties preferences and details about the facilities available to the watching party. If, the presence management system informs the watching party that the watched party is unavailable, the watching party is able to set up a monitor. In determining whether the required watched party is available for contact, the presence management system uses stored information about the watched party, information about the required connection (e.g. size and type) and also rules. In addition, information about events from the multiple access network are used e.g. geographical location of watched party mobile phones. Advantageously, watched parties or watching parties are may be groups or aggregates of individuals. ~~Aggregates are treated in the same way as individual watched parties or watching parties. For example, a group of individuals with a common interest may form in order that~~

IN

20

25

Abstract  
Too  
Long  
6/14/2003

Abstract  
Too  
Long  
6/14/2003

6/14/2003

[illegible]